

FARMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICY AND PROCEDURE



Policy Number:
246-01

Effective Date:
09/28/2016

Subject:
Special Weapons and Tactics Team
Deployment

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S.D. Hebbe".

Steven D. Hebbe, Chief of Police



PURPOSE:

To establish guidelines for handling Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) deployment.

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Farmington Police Department to utilize SWAT in exceptional circumstances when other than standard police procedures and weapons are required.

PROCEDURE:

Deployment Situations:

The SWAT team may be utilized in the following situations:

1. Hostage situations
2. Barricaded subjects
3. Sniper situations
4. High-risk warrant service or high-risk apprehension operations
5. High-risk security/dignitary protection operations
6. Terrorism response operations
7. Riot or crowd control situations

8. Other situations deemed appropriate by the Chief of Police or designee.

The SWAT Team may be utilized for pre-planned operations or during in-progress calls.

Pre-planned Operations:

The SWAT Team may be deployed for certain pre-planned operations. Any department member who intends to conduct a planned search or arrest warrant service shall use the Search or Arrest Warrant Threat Assessment and Ongoing Incident Assessment Form (246-01 Attachment A) to determine the need for SWAT Team response and/or consultation. Should SWAT team response or consultation be needed, the responsible supervisor shall contact the SWAT Team Commander or designee.

Supervisors requesting SWAT Team Response for a pre-planned operation will contact the SWAT Commander or designee. The SWAT Commander will be responsible for contacting the Chief of Police or designee for deployment approval. If approved, the SWAT Commander or designee will activate the SWAT Team utilizing the Everbridge system. The SWAT Commander will direct SWAT officers to the appropriate location for deployment.

In-progress calls:

Supervisors should use page 4 of the Search or Arrest Warrant Threat Assessment and Ongoing Incident Assessment Form (246-01 Attachment A) to help determine the necessity of SWAT Team response or consultation during in-progress calls. Certain situations may not fall within the scope of the Ongoing Incident Assessment form, but the on-scene supervisor might determine SWAT Team response may be needed. In these situations, the supervisor may contact the SWAT Commander or designee to determine the necessity of SWAT Team deployment.

Initial Responsibilities of the First Patrol Officers at the Scene (in-progress calls):

1. Notify dispatch of the incident and request assistance, to include a supervisor;
2. Secure the area. Isolate and contain the scene by establishing inner and outer perimeters. Evacuate any injured persons, bystanders, and those in dwellings and buildings in line of fire, if possible;
3. Gather intelligence information on the subject(s), the hostages(s), and their locations.

Information about the subject(s) should include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Location (floor, roof, room etc.);
2. Names and Physical description;
3. Phone numbers;
4. Type of weapons in their possession, if any;
5. Criminal history;

6. Probation/parole status;
7. Mental and physical condition to include drug or alcohol use;
8. Specialized training (prior military, law enforcement, martial arts, etc.)
9. Known associates;
10. Vehicle descriptions;
11. Subject's purpose.

Information to be collected about the hostages should include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Number and location;
2. Physical description;
3. Mental and physical condition;
4. Clothing description.

Information about the location (scene) itself should include the following:

1. Interior and exterior description;
2. Floorplans;
3. Location of all possible escape routes;
4. Location of service connections (water, gas, electricity);
5. General construction of the structure (brick, wood frame, types of doors and windows, etc.);
6. Geographic barriers (Shrubbery, trees, ditches, pools, etc.);
7. Fortifications;
8. Children, elderly, or handicapped present;
9. Animals;
10. Area threats;
11. Determination of rooms in which telephones are located and the telephone numbers(s) for each.

If evacuation occurs, officers should attempt to record the names and location of each person that was evacuated. As additional officers respond, they should be deployed to observe the possible exit or escape routes. Officers should be assigned to maintain pedestrian and vehicle traffic control in the area. The Dispatch Center will be informed of deployment, suspects, and hostages as necessary.

Persons who have pertinent information regarding the suspects, hostages and locations should be secured at the staging area for questioning by members of SWAT.

Complete situation report(s) will be given to the responding supervisor, to include all actions taken. As much information as possible should be gathered for SWAT members.

Responsibility of Assisting Officers (in-progress calls):

1. Unless otherwise directed, officers shall report to the Command Post and deploy as directed by the officer in charge at the scene;
2. Deployed officers must maintain absolute control of their assigned area to assure the safety of innocent persons and to guard against the escape of the suspect;
3. Deployed officers shall not act individually or without informing the officer in charge of any intended actions;
4. When relieved by SWAT members, assisting officers will provide support as requested. If not requested for support, assisting officers will report to the command post for further assignment.

Responsibility of Shift Supervisors (in-progress calls):

1. Assume command of the scene upon arrival, obtain a situation report from the officer in charge and evaluate the incident;
2. Request a special radio frequency be cleared and assigned to the incident;
3. Determine if inner and outer perimeters have been established and are adequate;
4. Set up the command post;
5. Determine the degree of danger to the following:
 - a. Hostages;
 - b. Officers at the scene;
 - c. Bystanders.

Once the need for SWAT has been determined and has been requested, the shift supervisor will notify the

Dispatch Center, Chief of Police, SWAT Commander or Assistant SWAT Commander, Shift Lieutenant, Farmington Fire Department and San Juan Regional Medical Center.

Deployment of the Special Weapons and Tactics team may also include response to unusual occurrences such as natural or manmade disasters, civil disturbances, and civil defense.

In cases where the team is responding to disasters or civil defense situations, they are used as the Police Department's first line of response in augmenting services already in place. Further information on this type of response can be found in the "Emergency Operations Policy".

During Civil Disturbances, a highly trained and specially equipped unit can be effective in controlling large groups. During such an event, the Special Weapons and Tactics team may be deployed to resolve the situation. To dictate a response that would cover all situations would be impractical, however, some of the below tactics have proven to be effective and may be used in any given situation:

1. The team acts as a unit and not individually;
2. The group's leaders or main agitators are identified. Documentation of identity and their actions will be done by the use of video tape or still photographs:
 - a. Negotiations will be attempted for resolutions to the situation;
 - b. They are identified for apprehension by the on-scene commander, in an attempt to disperse the crowd.
3. The on-scene commander may form arrest/rescue teams for carrying out difficult tasks, within the riot formation;
4. Mass Arrest Procedures are implemented;
5. Specialized equipment may be used, such as, tear gas, riot batons, K-9s, and other riot control devices;
6. Formations of trained personnel are used to move crowds when deemed appropriate.

Operations of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team:

Upon approval for the deployment of the SWAT Team by the Chief of Police or designee, the SWAT Commander or Assistant SWAT Commander will activate team members through the Everbridge alert system. The activation will include information regarding the call-out to include specific response location and safe routes of travel, as necessary. Team members assigned to the team come from various full time positions throughout the Department and are in an on-call status.

SWAT Commander Responsibilities:

1. Upon receiving the call the SWAT Commander or his designee calls the on scene incident commander or Communications center to ascertain the nature of the situation or to receive instructions. The Commander or his designee ascertains the location of the Command Post and a safe route to its location;

2. The Commander or his designee may make requests for additional notification, or call specialized members of the team to modify their response for any given situation;
3. The Commander or his designee may either respond to a staging area with the team, or directly to the Command Post to assist the on-scene commander;
4. Upon the arrival of the SWAT Commander or designee, they coordinate with the incident commander to provide tactical and negotiation options for resolution of the incident. The SWAT Commander or designee will be responsible for tactical operations. The Commander or designee may also make additional requests if they have not already been done by the Shift Supervisor;
5. The Commander briefs the Special Weapons and Tactics team members with the facts of the situation. The Commander, along with Team Leaders, makes assignments to the inner perimeter, to replace on-scene officers with Team personnel when possible;
6. The Commander, in consultation with the assigned Negotiator and SWAT Team Leaders, develops recommendations for the Chief of Police.

Team Leaders Responsibilities:

Team Leaders are primarily responsible for the tactical operations planning for the team. Additional Team Leader responsibilities during deployment are listed below:

1. Upon receiving a call for service they shall respond as directed;
2. They shall account for the remainder of their Teams arrival to the situation and that they are properly equipped for their assignment;
3. They make team assignments to the inner perimeter preferably after a briefing has been done with the team;
4. Team Leaders along with the SWAT Commander or his designee develop a tactical plan of action for the situation. They work in conjunction with the Negotiation personnel to come to a peaceful resolution if possible;
5. Team Leaders are responsible for post situation activities such as accounting for SWAT equipment and personnel. They also assist in making out reports for the situation and conducting a debriefing of personnel;

Duties of other Special Weapons and Tactics Team Personnel:

1. They respond as directed; when notified;
2. The team personnel work in conjunction with the negotiators towards a resolution of the situation;
3. Team snipers position themselves as to provide offensive capabilities from a distance, thus removing the need for other team personnel to be exposed to undue risk.

Hostage Negotiation Team:

Members of the Farmington Police Department that have been trained in Hostage Negotiation and are not attached to the SWAT Team will be notified and requested to respond as needed.

Post Call-Out Process:

After the conclusion of a situation it is SWAT's responsibility to preserve the location as a crime scene. The commander and team leaders are directly responsible for post incident operations which may include some or all of the following processes:

1. Provide security until relieved by other sworn personnel;
2. Secure the location or turn the location over to a responsible party, as necessary;
3. Account for all SWAT equipment and personnel used;
4. Gather all necessary information to complete the SWAT After Action Report, including diagrams, names of involved parties, etc.;
5. Make sure other Department related forms are completed;
6. Arrangements are made to provide a location for a debriefing of SWAT. During the debriefing all team personnel participate in creating a written log and a critique of the event.

The primary responsibility of SWAT is to resolve the high risk incident. The SWAT Commander is responsible for coordination with the Chief of Police (for purposes of this policy "or designee" applies) for tactical and negotiation solutions to the incident, and for directing the tactical operations.

Chief of Police's Responsibilities:

The Chief of Police or designee shall be the incident commander for SWAT and shall exercise authority for the scene and incident.